

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1595

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 19779

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: ANDREOTTI'S COMMENTS ON THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS

1. ON DECEMBER 3 AMBASSADOR VOLPE ACCOMPANIED SENATOR BROOKES ON A BRIEF VISIT WITH ANDREOTTI WHO WAS AT HOME TRYING TO CURE A COLD WHICH HAD CAUSED HIM TO LOSE HIS VOICE.

2. SENATOR BROOKE ASKED ANDREOTTI WHETHER THE PCI WAS ASKING FOR MORE POWER (SUCH AS TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT) AS A PRICE FOR CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH ANDREOTTI'S GOVERNMENT. ANDREOTTI SAID FLATLY THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD NOT ASKED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, THAT IF THEY DID, THE ANSWER WOULD BE NEGATIVE. HE IMPLIED THAT WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF CHAMBER AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES, THE PCI HAD GOTTEN ALL THAT IT COULD EXPECT.

3. THE TALK TURNED TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND ANDREOTTI SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE NEW SECRETARY CROXI WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING FAR ABOVE THE AVERAGE OF PSI LEADERSHIP. ANDREOTTI NOTED THAT OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS SEEM TO APPRECIATE CRAXI'S QUALITY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ANDREOTTI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRING THE SOCIALISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BY NEXT SPRING, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT THE SOCIALISTS WILL HAVE SORTED THEMSELVES OUT BY THEN. ANDREOTTI INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME SOCIALISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO

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ELIMINATE FURTHER NEED FOR COMMUNIST SUPPORT.

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